

NEW-YORK DAILY TRIBUNE, THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1853.

Indian Murders in Carver County—An Emigrant Train Attacked—Four Persons Killed and Two Wounded.

From the St. Paul Press.

A letter received Adjt.-Gen. Malerus last evening by a special messenger which conveyed the intelligence of fresh Indian outrages.

The letter was written at Watertown, by Isaac J. Lewis, and says that on Monday afternoon a party of emigrants passing from Waverly, Wright County, to Monte's Point, Carver County, places which are about twelve miles apart, were attacked by five Indians.

The Indians used bows and arrows exclusively, and succeeded in killing four and wounding two of the party.

The messenger says that they had reached Carver County before the attack was made.

It is not definitely stated, but the probability is,

that the emigrants consisted of a single family, who were changing their place of residence.

The killed were Amos Dustin, his mother, and two children. The wounded were Mrs. Dustin and one child.

What steps, if any, have been taken by the citizens to pursue the murderers is not known. Col. Miller's scouts report that there is no considerable band of Indians behind Gen. Sibley, but that a small number infest the frontier, and detached parties go out to commit depredations. It was, undoubtedly, such a party that committed the murders on Monday.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

Two More Prizes—Col. Montgomery Shoots One of His Soldiers for Desertion—The Corn and Cotton Crops.

From Our Special Correspondent.

Hilton Head, July 1, 1853.

Two more valuable prizes, ladies with Sea Island cotton, have just entered Port Royal harbor. The Britannia from Charleston, and the Victory from Wilmington, bound for foreign ports, were overhauled by the steamboat Santiago de Cuba, a few days since, on the coast of Florida, after a sharp chase of a few hours. These vessels both ran the blockade fleet at their respective ports without the least difficulty, but when once out to sea shamed their vigilance, and soon fell into the clutches of our watchful gunboats—watchful at sea, where there are but few to share the prize, but careless and inefficient, apparently, when nearer shore, and a whole fleet will divide the booty.

The cotton alone on board these captured vessels is said to be worth several hundred thousand dollars—the vessels from eighty to one hundred thousand each.

How long will English speculators continue in this very lucrative trade?

It will be remembered that, early last Summer, Gen. Hunter organized a negro regiment which was never recognized by the Government nor formally disbanded by himself, but which frightened itself away by desertions and by being taken up and absorbed by the Quartermaster and Commissary Departments.

When authority at last came to organize negro troops between 100 and 200 of this old regiment volunteered to serve in the 1st South Carolina, Col. Higginson; and when the 2d South Carolina, Col. Montgomery, was raised, the remaining portion were drafted and assigned to this regiment. The habits acquired in the original regiment on account of not having been recognized by the Government, and having been neglected by the commanding Generals of the department; the absence of all discipline, and the dim prospect of ever being paid for their services; the utter indifference manifested by almost every one for their welfare, and the natural aversion of the negro to enforced labor, rendered them not the best material for soldiers, and it was not surprising that what was very common in the armies at the South, and had been overlooked by both the Government and the Commanding Generals, should become of frequent occurrence in the 1st South Carolina. Desertions became frequent, so frequent that within three weeks nearly one hundred left the regiment many of them while performing picket service at night. Col. Montgomery soon discovered that unless this was summarily stopped he would soon be without a command. He called his troops together, and told them that thereafter he would shoot all who were caught and pardoned all who returned. But very few returned. One was caught. He was brought into camp last Saturday evening, and told by Col. Montgomery in person that at 4 o'clock on Sunday morning he would be shot. The negro was a strong, brave, soldierly fellow. The sudden approach of death did not alarm him. He asked for no judge, jury, or court martial. A chaplain was sent to him, but, like John Brown, he seemed not to have a very profound respect for the cloth, and is known to have confessed many of his sins—perhaps the fact that he was soon to appear before his God may have led him to prefer the latter as the Being before whose presence he would acknowledge his transgressions, and into whose hands he would pour his petitions for mercy. At 4 he was led out into an open field and shot until he was dead, by twenty-five of his comrades.

Col. Montgomery reported to Gen. Sturg, his highest commander, what he had done and received his approval.

It is understood that Gen. Gilmer, the Commanding General of this Department, and in whom alone it was supposed rested the authority to order the execution of a soldier for desertion, has also approved the act.

In giving the facts of this execution, as I have received them from the officer who ordered it, I am not expressing an opinion either favorable or adverse. It was very clear to Col. Montgomery, as I have before remarked, that unless the desertions stopped he would have no troops to command, and it would be utterly impossible to raise another regiment in this Department. From his acquaintance with the negro, he had learned that if a long interval elapsed between the commission of a crime and its punishment, very little benefit would accrue to the negro or to the service in which he was engaged. Even drum-beat court-martials are attended with delay, and if it is generally known throughout an army that a soldier is to be shot for desertion, one will be found to plead in his behalf and create sympathy for him.

Col. Montgomery, after revolving the whole matter in his mind, decided to act promptly, and take the entire responsibility upon himself. He caused it to be administered, upon himself alone, the death sentence.

It is an amusing fact, and as a freak of human nature worth mentioning, that the strongest sympathies the poor negro has had since his execution are the Copperheads, who but a few days since, could stand and see him knocked down in our wharves and beaten to jelly by white bulldogs wearing the national uniform, without lifting a hand in his defense, or expressing a word in condemnation of the act.

There is nothing of much interest from our Folly Island out-post. The troops are having a pleasant time there, and in the way of professional amusement occasionally have a musket engagement across Light House Inlet.

In consequence of the reported deepening of Waquo Cut by the enemy, and the fear of iron-clads from Charleston, a Monitor has been placed in the Stono.

The health of the troops in all portions of this Department continues excellent. Scarcely day passes without a fine thunder shower to purify the atmosphere and render the evenings and nights pleasant and enjoyable.

The cotton and corn crops are looking infinitely better than they were last year at this time. The old negroes who have always lived upon these islands say they had half to be the largest raised for many years.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

Charleston, June 24, 1853.—Capt. W. L. M. Long is announced as Assistant Adjutant General on the staff of the Brigadier Commanding, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

A misconception with regard to the true meaning of the term "desert" seems to exist in the minds of many of the officers and enlisted men of this command. To desert means to quit the ranks of the army or country to which he belongs, and there is no such thing as deserting the animals with which the party left, to be established, nor does the fact that he may afterward voluntarily return regain him of the crime.

The highest military authority declares that officers and enlisted men of the command are not deserters, and that they are not in desertion, and not only forfeit all pay and allowances due at the time of cessation, but are subject to the severest penalties awarded by law to that crime.

II. When a man leaves this command without proper authority, and remains abroad more than one day, his next superior in rank, or the power or command of which he is under, and there is no authority given him the animal with which the party left, to be established, nor does the fact that he may afterward voluntarily return regain him of the crime.

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